# **FORGING THE**



# WARRIOR SPIRIT

# The JRTC and Fort Polk Guardian

Vol. 48, No. 9

70

11

46

80%

Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

March 5, 2021



### Soldiers participate in emergency medical training

Sgt. 1st Class Sidney Pirtle, Pleasant Hill, Calif. Recruiting Station administers an IV to Spc. Cruz Espinosa, 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division during the Emergency Medical Technician

training conducted by the Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital Education Division at Fort Polk on Feb. 24. See more emergency medical tehnician training coverage on page 6.

### Inside the Guardian Weekend weather Deployed warfighters ...... 5 Army 10-miler..... 12 41 Golf tournament..... 16 Home station training...... 10 6% 3%

# Viewpoint

### In our view

Guardian staff asked the JRTC and Fort Polk community, **"If you could spend an hour with one historical figure, who would** it be and why?" Here are their responses:

### Betty Bellamy:

"Walter Cronkite. He was a very humble man and broadcaster."



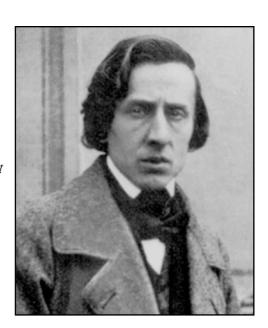


David Thornton: "There are many influential people in America. That alone makes this question almost impossible to answer. If I could only choose one, it would have to be Walt Disney. His personal history is great to learn and study, but the lasting impression he has made around the world is one of the most amazing things anyone could have ever imagined."

Andrew Kirkbride: "George Washington, because I would just like to see how he acted day to day. I would also like to discuss his personal beliefs and foundational ideas on why he believed the United States should be a separate nation from the British monarchy."



Christy Graham: "Frédéric Chopin: I'd ask to hear him play one piece, pick his brain about his writing process and then ask about his favorite song."





Virginia Lippert Holloway: "Henry Kissinger. I would like to ask him how he worked with so many leaders around the world."



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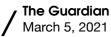
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Links to the Guardian are also included in all-users emails to government email users and by request to non-military units. To be included on all-users

messages email **kimberly.k.reischling.** civ@mail.mil.

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Fort Polk. For more information on Fort Polk units and happenings visit the following Facebook pages: @ JRTCOperationsGrp, @BayneJonesACH or @fortpolkmwr.



# NewScope

# **Briefs**

### **New service**

Fort Polk's Religious Support Office is increasing its spiritual outreach to the Fort Polk community by offering a new Protestant service.

The service begins Sunday at Glory Chapel, 1980 Glory Loop Road. The service, called Christ the King Chapel Fellowship Service, follows a traditional format and will be held each Sunday at 9 a.m.

The service promotes family integrated worship, which means there is no child care or children's church offered. Instead, children sit with their parents through the service.

### **Off limits**

Military personnel are prohibited from entering or doing business with the following establishments, areas or businesses in Fort Polk, Leesville, Barksdale Air Force Base and Shreveport areas.

Violators are subject to Uniform Code of Military Justice disciplinary or further administrative actions. Businesses include the American Legion Post 510: Leesville; Adolph's Grocery: New Llano; Banshees Motorcycle Club: Alexandria; BEAST Motorcycle Club: West Lake; Blackhawks Motorcycle Club: Lake Charles; Black Reign Motorcycle Club: Leesville; Days Inn: Leesville; Kokopellis: Shreveport; Lotus: Bossier City; Outcast Motorcycle Club: Lake Charles and Pipes Emporium: Bossier City.

If you have any questions regarding off limits establishments, call the Directorate of Emergency Services at 531-2677.

### **Tuition assistance**

ArmyIgnitED replaces the GoArmy-ED system. Soldiers requesting tuition assistance should apply for aid as soon as possible. Education Center staff can assist Soldiers in one of the three computer labs. They are also available for the creation of <u>ArmyIgnitED</u> accounts by appointment only To make an appointment call 531-5269.

### Expo offers spouses employment opportunities

By CHUCK CANNON Command Information Officer

FORT POLK, La. – Active-duty Army spouses took part in a virtual Military Spouse Career Empowerment Expo, sponsored by Military OneSource, March 4 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The event drew more than 400 participants Army-wide and included a panel discussion and breakout sessions focusing on resume preparation, networking, education options and personal well-being.

Brig. Gen. David Doyle, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commander, made opening remarks (virtually).

Hollyanne Milley, spouse of Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was the guest speaker.

Stacey Delgado, Fort Polk Employment Readiness Program manager, said the expo was the brainchild of Military OneSource and Military Spouse Employment Partnership – MSEP.

"They came together as a group and determined smaller installations needed a specialized hiring event expo where they could gain resources and information about not only what services Military OneSource offers, but also the employers within MSEP," Delgado said.

Delgado said there are more than 450 partner companies with MSEP.

"Our local partners like Lowes, Wal-Mart, AT&T and Navy Federal, to name a few, were contacted by Military OneSource and MSEP to not only put on a great display and sessions over this expo, but also conduct a follow-on virtual hiring event Wednesday," she said.

Each expo is tailored to meet the needs of the installation, Delgado said.

"They're held across the Department of Defense, so any isolated or remote installation will have the ability to be online for these events which can meet challenges that are associated with military spouse careers," she said. "We have fantastic breakout sessions which include federal application, resumes and self-care. The spouses are getting a well-rounded program, not only on how to take care of career challenges, but also how to take care of themselves."

The morning's panel included representatives from Amazon, the Army and Air



Stacey Delgado, Fort Polk Employment Readiness Program manager, facilitates the virtual Military Spouse Career Empowerment Expo held March 4.

Force Exchange Service, Veteran's Affairs and Google.

"Amazon and Google spoke about opportunities to work from home," Delgado said. "Many of our spouses at Fort Polk would like to work from home due to local employment challenges, and a reluctance to make a long commute to either Alexandria or Lake Charles."

Shaina Medina, whose husband, Capt. Kenneth Medina, is company commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, said she attended not only to garner information for herself, but also for other spouses in her husband's command.

"I have a job, but I'm attending this to get the information out to my company, and for future opportunities when I move," she said. "This is great information about the companies that will specifically hire military spouses and veterans. They're providing links to those companies, and how to work with those companies' HRs."

As a follow-on to the expo, there will be an MSEP virtual job fair Wednesday. Participants can log in and talk to employers and learn where to send resumes.

Please see Expo, page 11



## Nuclear Medical Science Officer reflects on her career

ue working on something she was not pas-

sionate about, or to start all over again as a

Santiago decided to pursue her dream

"I was direct commissioned as a nuclear

medical science officer with the advantage

of almost 18 years of experience in radiation

ing radiation protection and consultation

on radiological issues to protect and defend

Soldiers and their families from chemical,

biological, radiological and nuclear threats.

team is notified and performs a contamina-

tion survey by taking samples, investigat-

ing them, identifying the problem and mit-

Her team works behind the scenes to

"make sure that our medical, dental and

vet facilities are safe from all hazards asso-

ciated with radiation because there can be

multiple sources of radiation used in these

facilities for diagnosis and treatment of pa-

tients," said Santiago. Their job is to ensure

During the first gulf war, Santiago de-

"We saw patients, we helped people and

ployed with the 8th Evacuation Hospital

out of Fort Ord, California, as an X-ray tech-

we did some interesting work there that

you don't have the chance to do in a regular

hospital," said Santiago. "It's a great feeling

to see how proud my mother was of the

work I had done. At first she wasn't thrilled

that I joined the Army, so seeing that change

Santiago said that if she could offer some

advice to her younger self she would say,

"Don't cut yourself short. Any chance that

According to Santiago, she has been for-

The Army offered her a variety of as-

In 2011 she provided support to Opera-

These events caused severe damage to

tion Tomodachi following the devastating

signment and opportunities she would not

tunate that each time she closed one door in

you don't take is already a failure."

her life, another door opened.

have had in the civilian sector.

earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

"It was such a good feeling coming home

to know that I'm part of world history.

the safe use of radiation sources.

nician for six months.

was great."

If an incident occurs the health physics

As a NMSO, she is responsible for provid-

as a previous X-ray tech," Santiago said.

and switched from green to gold.

new NMSO.

igating it.

**BY MICHELLE THUM** Public Health Command Europe

LANDSTUHL, Germany — In March, the world celebrates the vital role of women throughout history.

Maj. Jodi Santiago, chief of health physics at Public Health Command Europe, knew from an early age that she wanted to work with radiation in medical imaging.

"My seventh grade science teacher brought up something about X-rays and I just thought it was so cool," explained Santiago. "I went to school to become an x-ray technician and after that I was like, 'now what?'

"I joined the Army in the 80ss after watching the movie Private Benjamin," she said. "The Army seemed like a personal challenge and I thought, 'if Private Benjamin can do it, I can do it.""

Initially, Santiago wanted to be in the Army Reserves, but this changed quickly after talking to a recruiter.

"I realized that I could do what I really like to do, but just for a different employer and have an opportunity to travel," she said. "I was sold."

She joined in her early 20s as an X-ray technician and "was a little older than some of the other folks" because of her time at college prior to enlisting.

This was a huge advantage because she participated in stripes for skills and rose through the ranks quickly, gaining more experience and responsibilities in a short time, she said.

"One of the jobs as an X-ray tech is to help physicists to survey equipment such as X-ray machines," she says. The more she learned about her career field, the more interested she became in anything to do with radiation.

While stationed in Puerto Rico, a nuclear medical science officer who serviced X-rays came to her unit and they started talking. Soon after, that she pursued an opportunity to go to Nuclear Medicine School and earn her bachelor's degree.

"When I got my degree in medical imaging, I had to make a decision," she said, "As a master sergeant all my work was administrative, I wanted to focus on X-rays but I wasn't working with patients anymore."

She asked herself if she wanted to contin-

Santiago

the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, which resulted in the release of radiation into the environment.

"As part of the response team, I was there 30 days, boots on the ground and putting my skills to use," said Santiago. "Just short of an actual nuclear weapons denotation this was probably a once in a lifetime opportunity for my career field."

In her current role as the chief of health physics at PHCE, she fills several mission critical roles such as assisting hospitals, field units and conducting contamination surveys.

"In radiation safety and health physics, we plan for the worst-case emergency and hope it never happens," said Santiago.

She is the lead of the Radiological Advisory Medical Team for the United States European Command.

If a radiological or nuclear emergency occurs in Europe, Africa or the Middle East she and her team will advise the incident commander on how to treat radiological causalities.

"I didn't even know those doors were there until I tried something new. I think that's one thing that has propelled my career. I started out just enlisting for six years to get the GI bill, and now I'm still here 31 years later."



# Fort Polk warfighters hone skills during deployment

#### **Guardian Staff**

FORT POLK, La. — Task Force Medical 32 (of the 32nd Hospital Center, currently deployed) conducted an Army Warrior Tasks competition in February.

The competition served as the culminating event capturing aspects of the monthly training that was held throughout the deployment.

Thank you to all Fort Polk's Soldiers currently deployed in service to the country.















The Guardian /5 March 5, 2021 /5

### BJACH conducts combat medic qualification training

#### **By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES** BJACH Public Affairs Officer

FORT POLK, La. — Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital provided combat medic Military Occupational Specialty qualification training to installation Soldiers, U.S. Army recruiters, and the Louisiana National Guard this week at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk.

According to the U.S. Army Training Circular TC8-800, Medical Education and Demonstration of Individual Competence, Soldier medics must meet complete emergency medical technician recertification annually.

Training includes individual tasks such as identification and treatment of trauma, airway, intravenous access and medication administration, medical, triage and evacuation, force health protection, obstetrics, gynecology and pediatrics. The seven-day training culminates in the skills validation trauma lane.

Staff Sgt. Cameron Reeves, non-commissioned officer-in-charge, BJACH hospital education department, conducts the training each month for medics across the installation and beyond.

Reeves said all medics are certified emergency medical technicians who must recertify annually with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and the U.S. Army.

"The training is seven days long, required to be completed each year before the end of March," he said. "We offer the training and certification to any 68W who wants to attend. At the end of the week, I give them a full EMT assessment and trauma scenario."

Reeves said there are between 300 and 350 combat medics assigned to Fort Polk. He works with every unit on post to ensure medics get the training they need.

"BJACH is the only organization on post certified to conduct this training," he said. "I have 33 Soldiers participating in training this week. Recruiters from Mississippi, Texas and California, National Guard and medics from every unit on post."

Sgt. 1st Class Sidney Pirtle, a 68W and recruiter assigned to the Pleasant Hill Recruiting Center near Oakland, California, said he could have taken this training at another military treatment facility but chose to come to Fort Polk because he was stationed at BJACH before his recruiting assignment.

"I've recruited two 68Ws so far. Medicine is always changing and evolving so it's a career that will never grow old," he said.



Spc. Joseph Carrasco, 50th Military Working Dog Detachment, 519th Military Police Battalion and Staff Sgt. Kelli Tittle from the Fort Polk Veterinary Treatment Facility explain how to check the pulse on Chantal, a military working dog, to Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Gillen, 317th Engineer Battalion during the Emergency Medical Technician training conducted by the Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital Education Division at Fort Polk Feb. 26.

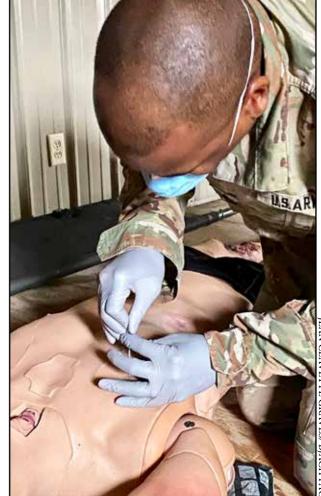
"It's been a great opportunity to return to Fort Polk for this training to catch up with colleagues I was stationed with. I knew Staff Sergeant Reeves would have the best, most realistic training because he incorporates medics from different units who bring a variety of perspectives and experiences to the training."

Sgt. 1st Class Terrance Richey, NCOIC of the Soldier Center Medical Home, said he looks forward to refreshing his skills and EMT training each year.

"This is a perishable skill, as medics we are in a profession that requires continual training and annual recertification," he said. "This has been one of the better classes that I have attended. The coordination and execution of this training has been exceptional."

Sgt. Jareema Donaldson, Army Medical Department physician recruiter, Houston, Texas, said she has taken the training at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base Sam Houston and Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, Fort Hood, Texas but decided to take the training at Fort Polk this year because she was stationed here from 2014-2018.

"The training has been excellent. It has



Sgt. 1st Class Sidney Pirtle, Pleasant Hill, Calif. Recruiting Station, is placing a needle chest decompression into the chest of a simulated casualty to relieve a tension pneumothorax (collapsed lung) during the Table VII validation during the Emergency Medical Technician training conducted by the Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital Education Division at Fort Polk March 1.

incorporated changes to regulatory guidelines and new equipment," she said. "I was excited to do the K9 Tactical Trauma Care because I've never done that before and it's always great to learn something new."

Donaldson said Fort Polk is a special place for her. Her first assignment was with 710th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team and she knew the training would be in line with the reputation of premier training offered at a combat training center.

Next week Reeves is working with 3rd Brigade Combat Team by providing unit specific training to ensure their medics are recertified and trained to standard before their upcoming JRTC rotation.

The Hospital Education and Staff Development team at BJACH offers a variety of continuing education training and certifications for medical professionals in addition to EMT training. To register for a class or set up training for your unit email the department at <u>usarmy.polk.medcom-bjach.list.</u> <u>hesd@mail.mi</u>l.



### Patient advocates: Resource for patient concerns

#### **By JEAN CLAVETTE GRAVES B**JACH PAO

FORT POLK, La. - According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, an advocate is a person who pleads the cause of another, who defends or maintains a cause or proposal and supports an interest or group. Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital has two patient advocates who are there to assist, educate and champion Soldiers,

Families and beneficiaries regarding their health-care concerns.

According to the BJACH website, the patient advocate serves as a link between patients and hospital leaders at all levels. They offer education and information regarding policies, procedures, systems and concerns about care and safety within the hospital. Patient advocates help patients navigate the military

health-care system and serve as liaisons between beneficiaries, clinics, the pharmacy, laboratory, managed care, Tricare and off post agencies.

Mary Jeane, BJACH patient advocate, said her role is to serve as a direct link to leadership in the hospital at all levels. She said her primary function is to listen because often patients don't feel like their concerns are being heard.

"By providing a listening ear, I can help discern the root cause of an issue and recommend solutions," she said. When problems arise, she suggests the first step patients take is to elevate their concerns to the clinic non-commissioned officer or officer in charge. Often the issue can be resolved immediately.

Jeane said her office also manages the Interactive Customer Evaluation for BJACH.

"ICE is another way for patients to have their concerns heard and addressed by leadership," she said. "It is important for Soldiers and Families on Fort Polk to know we call everyone who completes an ICE card and leaves their contact information."

If you have and issue the link to the ICE site is https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site id=257.

She said the hospital commander and providers want to get to the bottom of the problem, but an issue is unknown until it is brought to their attention.

"It doesn't even have to be problem," Jeane said. "Patients often come to us be-

cause they don't know where to go, who to dicament. talk to or how to make things happen for themselves or their dependents within the formation when they aren't feeling well or health-care system."

She said patient advocates help patients easy to miss something," she said. navigate how a military treatment facility operates because it is different than health the complaint or concern. care in the civilian sector.

BJACH, said patients have the right to be up appointments, get labs, referrals ... treated with dignity. It's important that ad- sometimes it's just a matter of making a

"By providing a

listening ear, I can

cause of an issue

and recommend

solutions."

help discern the root

Mary Jean

Patient Advocate

garding patient health.

"What I enjoy most she said. about working in this figure out where they are in the process and then meet them there to address the situation," tient on the procedure. ager. With emotions running

high, patients may miss part of what the the system and get the services they need. providers have conveyed."

their reality.

"We recognize and acknowledge their been taken care of." feelings then we help them sift through all the information and find solutions," she tient Advocates call (337) 531-3628, (337) said.

Brown said often a communication break- to down complicates and exacerbates the pre- tient-advocate@mail.mil.

"When patients are given so much inwhile in a heightened emotional state it is

Jeane said advocates always investigate

"Then we determine exactly what the Laura Brown, also a patient advocate for person needs and help them make follow vocates take the time to few phone calls and reviewing their previunderstand concerns re- ous encounters to resolve the situation or get the patient the outcome they desire,"

> Jeane said sometimes a patient will presoffice is we listen first, ent themselves at the emergency room because of symptoms they are experiencing at the time.

> The emergency room is for life and limb emergencies, not for chronic concerns. she said. "Sometimes we What patients often forget is the follow up have to educate the pa- appointment with their primary care man-

"It is our job to help patients navigate Let us serve you. Your voice is important Brown said the patients' perception is to us," she said. "We want our patients to leave the hospital and feel like they have

> Editor's note: To reach the BJACH Pa-531-3880, (337) 718-6868 or send an email usarmy.polk.medcom-bjach.list.pa-



### "I got the COVID-19 Vaccine to protect myself and for patient safety.

obert Arbelaez ecurity Guard yne-Jones Army Community Hospital

### OSJA awards breakfast celebrates concept of people first

#### **By ANGIE THORNE** Public affairs specialist

FORT POLK, La. — Fort Polk's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate hosted an awards breakfast for its staff March 3 at the Showboat Theater.

Col. Tiffany Chapman, Fort Polk staff judge advocate, said the breakfast was part of an effort to put people first.

"We wanted to acknowledge our staff for all their hard work and dedication," she said.

Lt. Col. Jess Roberts, deputy staff judge advocate, said the awards breakfast was all about thanking their staff of 58 legal professionals.

"Our law firm handles all the administrative and military justice actions on Fort Polk. If it's a legal matter, it comes through our office," he said. "I'm amazed at all the contracts they handle. Over the last two years the law firm's contract division has handled half a billion dollars worth of contracts," he said.

Roberts said in addition to contracts, they continue to handle other duties such as assisting Families during some of the toughest times of their lives.

"Not many law firms our size could handle that amount and scope of work."

Roberts said the OSJA staff is proud of the impact they have on Fort Polk and beyond.

"Our legal team is honored to support the Soldiers and Families of Fort Polk," he said.

Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general, opened the awards ceremony with a few words and presented some awardees with coins.

Doyle said it was a great honor for him to be there.

"Though we are here to recognize a few specific individuals, they are emblematic of what you do as an organization to keep JRTC and Fort Polk running the way it should, he said. "You help people every day by making a difference for the team that is trying to put 'people first' in everything that we do. Thanks for your dedicated and committed work."

Phyllis Lenz, paralegal specialist, was presented with a civilian honorary award at the event.

"My job has been the biggest blessing. It's been my pleasure to serve Soldiers, retirees and their Families for 46 years," she said.

Lenz said this last year has been pretty challenging, but for most of her career she



Col. Tiffany Chapman, Fort Polk staff judge advocate, presents Phyllis Lenz, paralegal specialist, with a civilian honorary award at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate awards breakfast held March 3 at the Showboat Theater.



After the awards portion of the event concluded, attendees formed a line at a breakfast buffet March 3 at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate awards breakfast.

would have been happy to pay the government to come into work every day.

"I love my job," she said.

Lenz said she isn't used to being in the spotlight and is the type of person who likes to stay behind the scenes.

"That doesn't mean I don't appreciate receiving this award and the recognition that what I do matters. If I can put a smile on the face of just one person that walks through our doors, I feel like I have made a difference and that makes me happy," she said.

Cpl. Samantha Corado, paralegal specialist, 317th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, said she handles legal issues for her unit as well as the 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div.

Corado was presented with a coin at the awards ceremony.

"I'm proud of the work I do and I'm honored they chose to recognize me today," she said.



Brig. Gen. David S. Doyle, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk commanding general, presents a coin to Cpl. Samantha Corado, paralegal specialist, 317th Brigade Engineer Battalion, at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate awards breakfast March 3.

The Guardian March 5, 2021

### Punishment dispensed to Soldiers with UCMJ violations

#### OSJA

FORT POLK, La. — The preamble to the Manual for Courts-Martial states, "The purpose of military law is to promote justice, to assist in maintaining good order and discipline in the armed forces, to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the military establishment and thereby strengthen the national security of the United States." At the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, the commanding general and subordinate commanders take good order and discipline seriously.

Across Fort Polk, the following disciplinary issues continue to be prevalent: General Order #1 violations, driving under the influence of alcohol, wrongful use/possession of controlled substances, fraternization, sexual assault and underage drinking. Below are recent examples of adverse legal actions for units within the Fort Polk jurisdiction. forfeiture of \$1,356 pay per month for two months, suspended, to be automatically re-

• A sergeant, assigned to 710th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, was issued a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for touching another service member without the individual's consent and for exposing himself in an indecent manner to the service member, in violation of Article 120, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

• A sergeant, assigned to Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group, was issued a GOMOR for domestic abuse, in violation of Article 128b, UCMJ.

• A sergeant, assigned to 46th Engineer Battalion, was punished under Article 15 for failing to report to his appointed place of duty on three separate occasions, in violation of Article 86, UCMJ. The Soldier was sentenced to a reduction to specialist; forfeiture of \$1,356 pay per month for two months, suspended, to be automatically remitted if not vacated within 180 days; and extra-duty for 30 days.

• A specialist, assigned to 519th Military Police Battalion, was issued a GOMOR for driving while under the influence with a breath alcohol content of 0.153%, an amount above the legal limit, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ.

• A specialist, assigned to 1st Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, was separated under Chapter 14-12c (Commission of Serious Offense) for engaging in abusive sexual conduct with an individual without the individual's consent. The Soldier was issued a General under Honorable conditions characterization of service and a bar to post. Generally, this characterization of service member's educational benefits.

## Get ready to update — new IPPS-A is coming

#### Army Team,

I need you to update your personnel records.

In December, the entire force will transition to a new human resources and pay system, the Integrated Personnel Pay System — Army (IPPS-A).

IPPS-A will become the focal point for all HR activities across the force. For the first time ever, personnel, pay and talent management capabilities will be

integrated into a single online system for 1.1 million users across all three components.

IPPS-A will also introduce a talent management feature known as the 25 Point Soldier Talent Profile. Each Soldier's profile will provide information about their knowledge, skills, behaviors and experience, which will help the Army make better-informed talent decisions.

These innovative capabilities will bring Army HR into the 21st century, but we need your help to ensure the system's success in December.

Everyone should review their personnel records in our legacy HR systems to make sure they are accurate and up to date.

Avoid inconveniences and hardships later by taking the following steps now:

• Review personnel records on Defense Manpower Data Center (<u>https://milcon-</u> <u>nect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/</u>).

• Check Soldier Record Brief / Officer Record Brief (<u>https://www.hrc.army.mil/</u>).

• Review Army Training Requirements and Resources System Training Transcript for accuracy and resolve any missing training records (<u>https://www.atrrs.army.mil/</u> <u>selfdevctr/login/loginSDC.aspx?ntul=ST</u>).

• Follow this link (<u>https://ipps-a.army.</u>

MESSAGE SoldierSe

<u>mil/wp-content/uploads/</u> <u>SoldierSelfServiceDataGu-</u> <u>ide\_May20\_v1.pdf</u>) for a guide that details exactly what infor-

mation you need to check in each legacy system.

Seek help from your local Records Manager or HR Professional if your information is incorrect or incomplete. Let's ensure the transition to IPPS-A in December is successful.

Sergeant Major of the Army, Michael A. Grinston

For more information about IPPS-A visit the website at <u>https://ipps-a.army.mil/</u>.

You can also find IPPS-A on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn.

• IPPS-A, FMD — <u>https://ipps-a.army.</u> <u>mil/</u>



• IPPS-A Facebook — https://www. facebook.com/armyippsa

• IPPS-A YouTube — <u>https://www.</u> youtube.com/c/IPPSA

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sa

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## HST team preps engineers for JRTC rotation 21-06

**By CHUCK CANNON** Command Information Officer

FORT POLK, La. - Instructors for Fort Polk's Emergent Threat, Training and Readiness Capability — ET2RC — Home Station Training team began training combat engineers in preparation for Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 21-06 March 3.

The virtual training was conducted via MS Teams with members of the 961st Engineer Company, part of the Ohio Army Reserve, during the unit's annual training at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

The 961st will provide brigade-level assistance to Fort Polk's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Airborne) during Rotation 21-06 in April.

Dan Walsh, threat mitigation trainer for U.S. Army Reserve Command, said the training, entitled Obstacle Classification and Planning, teaches the engineers what constitutes an obstacle and the different types of obstacles.

"We'll teach them how to develop obstacles, and do it better," Walsh said.

John Patterson, site lead for the HST team at Fort Polk, said the "so what" of the virtual training was that the training was done before the rotation.

"Dan and Larry (Driscoll an HST team trainer) are conducting the training on behalf of JRTC Operations Group, Task Force 5, and they're doing pre-rotational training using a distributive learning platform," Patterson said. "The virtual training is a game

changer because the unit does not have to be on the ground changer because the unit does not to start the training, whereas a year ago, units the training." would come down here and try to crunch in all the training

they could during Reception, Staging, Onward-movement and Integration. Now they are able to get it done using distant learning virtual training before their arrival.

It helps them learn how they tie in to the rotation."

Driscoll said the idea is reach out through virtual training and distance training to engage units before the rotation.

"We take some of the stress off of the units during the RSO&I phase of rotation," Driscoll said. "That was the mandate we re-



1st Lt. Jonathan Fife, Ohio Army Reserve 961st Engineer Company, instructs Soldiers on Emergent Threat, Training and Readiness Capability in preperation for Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 21-06.

ceived from Lt. Col. Larry Workman, lead OC/T for Task Force 5, that we try to get training done earlier to take stress off commanders. Additionally, it gets them thinking and moving in the right direction."

Walsh said he has reached out to Reserve

and National Guard units before rotations to get them interested in the training prior to the 30-day window before deployment.

"It's been paying off dividends," he said. "That way they can build their train-up plan prior to coming to

JRTC and implement this material into it so when they get here, we're not taking up so much of their time. They will not have to do repetitions of things they have already trained on. They have the concept; all they have to do is the tuning."

Following the virtual class work, the 961st Engineers were able to put what they learned into practice during a field exercise at Camp Atterbury.

Two HST team instructors - Chuck Woods from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and Anthony Spicer from Fort Knox, Kentucky — each worked with a platoon reinforcing what was learned during the virtual class.

Driscoll said Army engineer units need a lot of work in defensive operations.

"We're not where we need to be," he said. "Engineers are not the primary ground fighters involved in the defense as combatants. What they do is go in and build the arena - in terms of counter-mobility and reinforcing and shaping terrain — to force a specific effect on an enemy unit. Whether that comes down to shaping effects or killing effects, the outreach permits us an opportunity to guide them in their selections."

Tuesday and Wednesday, the Fort Polk ET2RC HST team will train engineers with Alpha Company, 317th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div (Airborne). The event will include classroom and field training.

During the RSO&I for Rotation 21-06, the HST team will be able to answer questions the engineers may have.

During the rotation, the HST team will also be available, along with Task Force 5 OC/Ts, to guide the engineers.

Editors note: This is part one of an ongoing series.

**John Patterson** HST site lead

"The virtual training is a game

have to be on the ground to start



# Expo

Continued from page 3

"You do not have to attend today's sessions to participate on March 10," Delgado said.

Fort Polk's Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host an off-post job fair March 13 for DFMWR non-appropriated fund positions. Also, the Fort Polk ERP will host its first in-person job fair this year for spouses on March 24. As of now, there are several local companies who will attend the in-person job fair. Two years ago more than 30 jobs were offered to spouses on the day of the event. There will also be information on educational opportunities.

"This is a great event," Delgado said. "I hope spouses are able to gather information that is helpful to them, not only from the Employment Readiness Program, but also from Military OneSource, and learn what MSEP can do. Those are companies that offer portable careers — they can move from installation to installation — and they have upward mobility."

The March 4 virtual expo was scheduled for March 21, 2020, but rescheduled for the fall due to COVID-19 issues. The program was rescheduled again for March 4 when Fort Polk suffered back-to-back hurricanes. It almost had to be delayed again when a snow and ice storm hit Fort Polk Feb. 15-18

"That we were able to host this expo was a testament to the perseverance of those responsible for pulling it together," Delgado said.

The March 13 off-post job fair is held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Johnson Temple Church of God in Christ, 200 Nona St., Leesville. Call 531-6922/7421 for more information. For more information on the March 24 job fair, call Stacey Delgado at 531-6922.



Shaina Medina, spouse to Capt. Kenneth Medina, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division company commander, said she attended the expo to garner information for herself and the spouses in her husband's command.

The Guardian March 5, 2021

# Community

### Taxpayers must report gig economy income on returns

#### OSJA

FORT POLK, La, — In 2020, many people joined the gig economy to help make ends meet during the pandemic. Whether it's a side business or a primary source of income, all taxpayers need to understand how their gig work affects their taxes. The bottom line is taxpayers must report gig economy income on their tax return.

The gig economy is also referred to as the on-demand, sharing or access economy. People involved in the gig economy earn income as freelancers, independent workers or employees.

They use technology known as online platforms to connect them with customers to provide goods or services including things like renting out a home or spare bedroom and providing delivery services.

Here are some things taxpayers should know about the gig economy and taxes:

• Money earned through this work is usually taxable.

• There are tax implications for both the company providing the platform and the individual performing the services.

• This income is usually taxable even if the:

- Taxpayer providing the service doesn't receive an information return, like a Form 1099-NEC, Form 1099-MISC, Form 1099-K, or Form W-2.

- Activity is only part-time or side work.

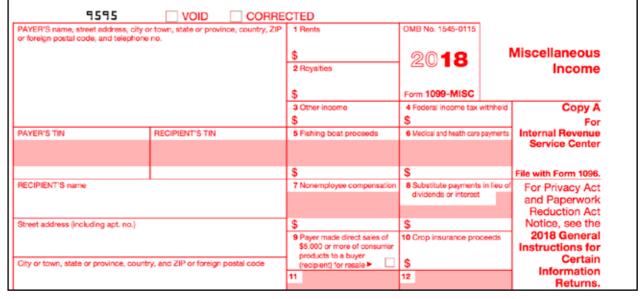
- Taxpayer is paid in cash.

• People working in the gig economy



FORT POLK, La. – Anton Majewski, a Soldier with Fort Polk's 433 Medical Detachment, 115th Field Hospital, 32nd Hospital Center posted the top time in an Army 10-Miler qualification race March 5 at the installation's Marion Bonner Trail.

Majewski's time of 1:05 topped those posted by Kaleb Bartlett (1:09), Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, and Jacob Maddox (1:11), Charlie



are generally required to pay:

- Income taxes.

 Federal Insurance Contribution Act or Self-Employment Contribution Act tax.
Additional Medicare taxes.

• Independent contractors may be able to deduct business expenses. These taxpayers should double check the rules around deducting expenses related to use of things like their car or house. They should remember to keep records of their business expenses.

• Special rules usually apply to rental property also used as a residence during the tax year. Taxpayers should remember that rental income is generally fully taxable.

• Workers who do not have taxes withheld from their pay have two ways to pay their taxes in advance. Here are these two options:

• Gig economy workers who have another job where their employer withholds taxes from their paycheck can fill out and submit a new Form W-4. The employee does this to request that the other employer withholds additional taxes from their paycheck.

This additional withholding can help cover the taxes owed from their gig economy work.

• The gig economy worker can make quarterly estimated tax payments. They do this to pay their taxes and any self-employment taxes owed throughout the year.

If you have any questions, please contact the Fort Polk Installation Tax Center at 531-1040. If you want to make an appointment with a legal assistance attorney call 531-2580.

### Fort Polk hosts first 2021 Army 10-Miler qualification

Battery, 5th Battalion, 25th Artillery Regiment, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div.

Cristal Falcon, 433rd Med Dt, finished in 1:27 to claim the top spot among female runners.

Although the cool morning temperatures and low humidity favored the runners, they agreed the winding, hilly Marion Bonner Trail course presented its own set of challenges.

"With the hills, it's a pretty big gut check, but you've got to push through," Bartlett

Please see Run, page 15





### IRS extends upcoming deadlines for some states due to winter storms

### OSJA

FORT POLK, La. — Victims of February's winter storms in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma will have until June 15 to file various individual and business tax returns and make tax payments. Following the recent disaster declaration issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Internal Revenue Service is providing this relief.

Taxpayers impacted by the winter storms that receive FEMA disaster declarations will automatically receive the same filing and payment relief.

The tax relief postpones various tax filing and payment deadlines that occurred starting Feb. 11. As a result, affected individuals and businesses will have until June 15 to file returns and pay any taxes that were originally due during this period. This includes 2020 individual and business returns normally due on April 15, as well as 2020 business returns due on March 15. Affected taxpayers will also have until June 15 to make 2020 IRA contributions.

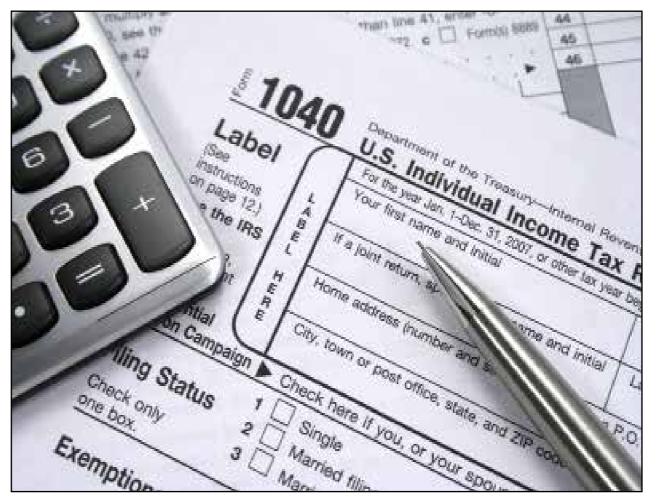
The June 15 deadline also applies to quarterly estimated income tax payments due April 15, quarterly payroll and excise tax returns normally due April 30 and tax-exempt organizations, operating on a calendar-year basis, that have a 2020 return due May 17.

The IRS automatically provides filing and penalty relief to any taxpayer with an IRS address of record located in the disaster area.

Therefore, taxpayers do not need to contact the agency to get the relief. However, if an affected taxpayer receives a late filing or late payment penalty notice from the IRS that has an original or extended filing, payment or deposit due date falling within the postponement period, the taxpayer should call the number on the notice to have the penalty abated.

In addition, the IRS will work with any taxpayer who lives outside the disaster area, but has records located in the affected area necessary to meet the deadline occurring during the postponement period. Taxpayers qualifying for relief who live outside the disaster area need to contact the IRS at (866) 562-5227. This also includes workers assisting the relief activities who are affiliated with a recognized government or philanthropic organization.

Individuals and businesses in a federally declared disaster area who suffered uninsured or unreimbursed disaster-related losses can choose to claim them on either



the return for the year the loss occurred (in this instance, the 2021 return normally filed next year), or the return for the prior year. This means that taxpayers can, if they choose, claim these losses on the 2020 return they are filling out this tax season. The tax relief is part of a coordinated fed-

eral response to the damage caused by these storms and is based on local damage assessments by FEMA. If you have any questions, you may call the Fort Polk Installation Tax Center at 531-1040 or schedule an appointment with a legal assistance attorney by calling 531-2580.



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### Check out fun, informative ACS events in March

### ACS

FORT POLK, La. - Fort Polk's Army Community Service Outreach Program is hosting events in March. Whether you are interested in learning some first-aid, jumping into crafts with bottles and Irish themes or working on getting healthy — all while gathering information about ACS resources - check out these events.

• Tuesday at 9, 10 and 11 a.m. — The ACS Outreach Services program has partnered with Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital to provide a "STOP THE BLEED" event for Family members and civilians at the Family Readiness Center, bldg 924. Maj. Jocelyne Evboumwan, a BJACH emergency department registered nurse, will conduct

the training. Classes are limited to 15 per civilians. session. Participants can register for any of the three available sessions.

• Wednesday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. — join a free bottle art class at ACS, bldg 920. Participants will decorate empty bottles with a St. Patrick's day theme. Those interested in taking part in the fun and arts and crafts event will also be provided with an overview of all ACS resources. The event is limited to 15.

• March 15 from 10-11 a.m. — ACS hosts an Army Wellness Center information class at the FRC, bldg 924. The event provides the Fort Polk community an overview of the services provided by the Wellness Center. Learn about the resources available to Family members and Department of Defense

Participants must register for these events. Social distancing will be in effect and masks required. If you don't have a mask or forget yours, masks will be provided. As always, all ACS events are free.

Register by contacting Outreach Services at 531-1895 to reserve your spot or send an email to yamel.r.munoz.civ@mail.mil.





Run

Continued from page 12

said. "Once you're done, you're done." Maddox agreed.

"There were a lot of hills, which made it pretty hard, especially coming off of that last one," he said. "I usually sprint across the finish line, but that hill takes it out of you and I just jogged across this one."

Majewski said his goal was to finish as close to 60 minutes as possible.

"Once I got to the halfway point, I figured if I maintained a 6-minute pace, I could run 60," he said. "Towards the end, when we hit the hills, I opened up my stride. It was a hard race."

Majewski, who along with Falcon started 12 minutes after the lead group, said the run took its toll on his feet.

"My feet are a little blistered," he said. "When you're running hills and taking the long strides, your shoes tend to loosen up and your feet can blister. But I fought through it and I'll be OK."

Falcon said this was not her first attempt at a 10-mile run.

"I've done a 10-miler before, so I was used to it," she said. "Today, I wanted to see



Anton Majewski

where I stood and where I need to work. I was happy, but I need to improve."

Bartlett said he, too, was happy with his time.

"It would have been nice to get 60 minutes, but there's always the next qualification," he said. The next Army 10-Miler qualifier is scheduled for April 16 at Marion Bonner Trail, next to Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, at 6:30 a.m. Call the Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Intramural Sports Office at 531-2056 to preregister or for more information.



Runners make their start at the first 2021 Army 10-miler qualification at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk.





**Cristal Falcon** 

Jacob Maddox



## Commander's golf tournament held at Warrior Hills

FORT POLK, La. - The Garrison Commander's Golf Tournament was held at Warrior Hills golf course today.













16/The Guardian March 5, 2021



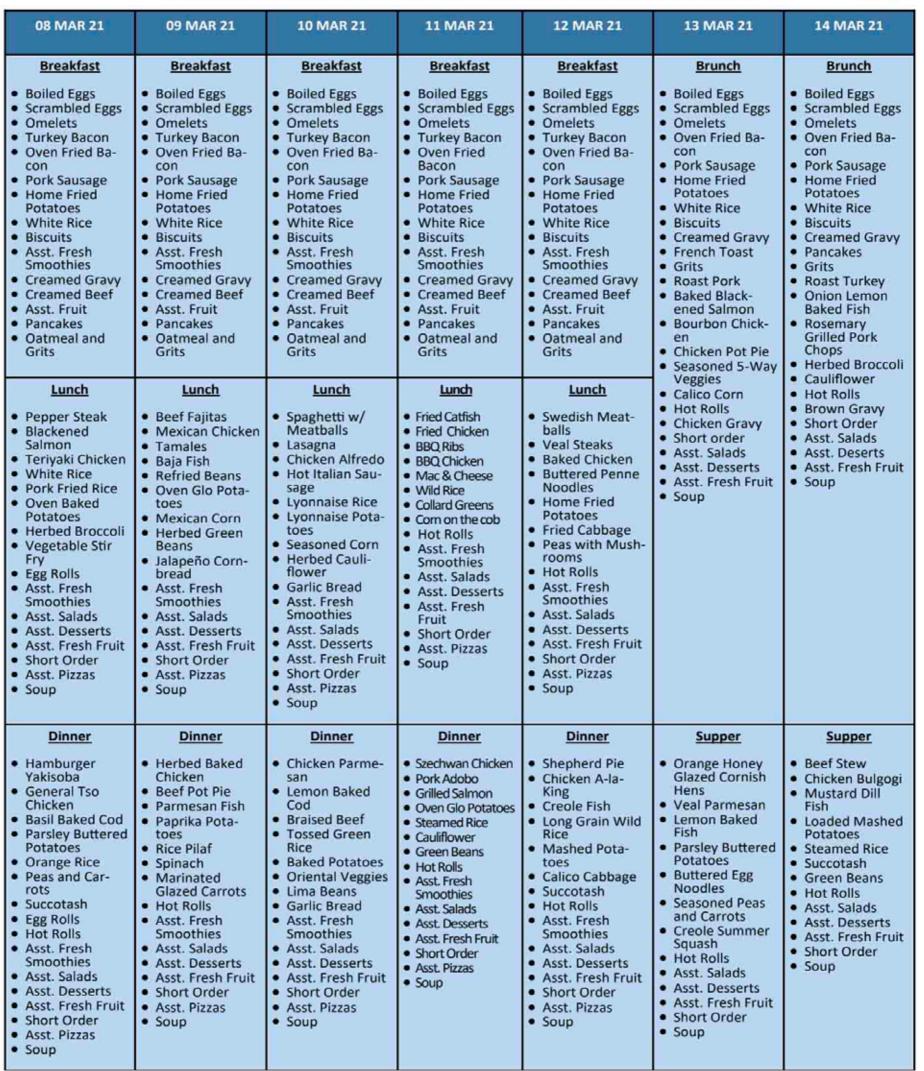
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### **08 MAR 21**

\*\*BREAKFAST\*\* -BOILED EGGS -SCRAMBLED EGGS -TURKEY BACON -TURKEY SAUSAGE -PORK BACON -PORK SAUSAGE HOME FRIED POTATOES -HASH BROWNS -WHITE RICE BISCUITS -CREAMED BEEF GRAVY -CREAM GRAVY -PANCAKES FRENCH TOAST -SYRUP W/ TOPPING -OATMEAL -GRITS WESTERN OMELET

#### **08 MAR 21** \*\*LUNCH\*\*

- LASAGNA -GRILLED POLLOCK -BUTTERED EGG NOODLES -OVEN-GLO POTATOES -HERBED GREEN BEAS -CARROTS AMADINE -CHICKEN NODDLE SOUP -HAMBURGER -HOT DOGS CHICKEN TENDERS -PHILLY STEAK/ PEPPER & ONIONS -BAKED BEANS -CHILLI with BEF -CURLY FRIES -CHEESE SAUCE ASSORTED SALAD -ASSORTED DESSERT

#### Breakfast: \$3.50 AND Lunch: \$5.65 Hours of Operation: Breakfast: 0730-0900 AND Lunch: 1130-1300 Open to all military and civilian personnel. Alabama Ave, Bldg. 2382 Fort Polk, LA 71459



### 09 MAR 21

\*\*BREAKFAST\*\* -BOILED EGGS -SCRAMBLED EGGS -TURKEY BACON TURKEY SAUSAGE -PORK BACON -PORK SAUSAGE HOME FRIED POTATOES -HASH BROWNS -WHITE RICE -BISCUITS -CREAMED BEEF GRAVY -CREAM GRAVY PANCAKE -FRENCH TOAST -SYRUP W/ TOPPING -OATMEAL -GRITS -WESTERN OMELET

#### 09 MAR 21 \*\*LUNCH\*\*

-ARROZ CON POLLO -CHILI-LIME POLLOCK -FRIED POTATOES & PEPPERS -SPANISH RICE -VEGGIE STIR FRY -STEAM GREEN BEANS -CREAM OF BROCCOLI -TACO BAR -CHICKEN WINGS HAMBURGERS -HOT DOGS -BAKED BEANS -CHILLI with BEEF -CURLY FRIES -CHEESE SAUCE ASSORTED SALAD -ASSORTED DESSERT

### 10 MAR 21

\*\*BREAKFAST\*\* -BOILED EGGS -SCRAMBLED EGGS -TURKEY BACON -TURKEY SAUSAGE -PORK BACON -PORK SAUSAGE HOME FRIED POTATOES -HASH BROWNS -WHITE RICE -BISCUITS -CREAMED BEEF GRAVY -CREAM GRAVY FRENCH TOAST -PANCAKES -SYRUP W/ TOPPING -OATMEAL -GRITS -WESTERN OMELET

#### 10 MAR 21 \*\*LUNCH\*\*

-FIVE SPICE CHICKEN -PORK CHOPS /w PINEAPPLE SAUCE -GARLIC SOY ROASTED POTATOES -FRIED RICE -FIVE WAY MIXED VEGETABLES -STEAMED BROCCOLI -VEGETABLE SOUP -CHICKEN TENDERS -BAKED BEANS -CHILLI with BEEF -CURLY FRIES -CHEESE SAUCE -ASSORTED SALAD ASSORTED DESSERT

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### 11 MAR 21

\*\*BREAKFAST\*\* -BOILED EGGS -SCRAMBLED EGGS -TURKEY BACON TURKEY SAUSAGE -PORK BACON -PORK SAUSAGE HOME FRIED POTATOES -HASH BROWNS WHITE RICE -BISCUITS -CREAMED BEEF GRAVY -CREAM GRAVY -FRENCH TOAST PANCAKES SYRUP W/ TOPPING -OATMEAL -GRITS WESTERN OMELET

#### 11 MAR 21 \*\*LUNCH\*\*

-BBQ SPARERIBS -GRILLED CHICKEN -SOUTHERN FRIED CATFISH -BAKED MAC & CHEESE -RED BEANS /w RICE -SOUTHERN FRIED OKRA CORN ON THE COB -GUMBO -CHICKEN WINGS -BAKED BEANS -CHILLI with BEEF -CURLY FRIES -CHEESE SAUCE -ASSORTED SALAD ASSORTED DESSERT

#### 12 MAR 21 \*\*BREAKFAST\*\*

-BOILED EGGS -SCRAMBLED EGGS TURKEY BACON -TURKEY SAUSAGE -PORK BACON PORK SAUSAGE -HOME FRIED POTATOES -HASH BROWNS -WHITE RICE -BISCUITS -CREAMED BEEF GRAVY -CREAM GRAVY -PANCAKES FRENCH TOAST -SYRUP W/ TOPPING -OATMEAL -GRITS -WESTERN OMELET

#### 12 MAR 21 \*\*LUNCH\*\*

-HERBED BAKED CHICKEN PARMESAN PESTO POLLOCK -SCALLOPED POTATOES -WILD RICE HERBED BROCCOLI -GLAZED CARROTS -MUSHROOM SOUP -CHICKEN WINGS -CHICKEN TENDERS -HAMBURGER -HOT DOGS -BAKED BEANS -CHILLI with BEANS -CURLY FRIES -CHEESE SAUCE ASSORTED SALAD -ASSORTED DESSERT



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18/The Guardian March 5, 2021

